

it was a blind salmon; and upon examination, I found this fish had various scars on his head, the left eye had sloughed out, the right eye had a cut across it, and a thin film had formed over the eye, causing him to be entirely blind. I learned from the Indians that it often occurred that large salmon became blind, and did not return to the sea with the rest of the fish for feeding, but remained in the deep pools of the river, and eventually starved to death. The Indians have many theories regarding the cause of this blindness, none of which are plausible. During this trip I had several chances of seeing salmon that were either blind in one or both eyes, but did not at that time find out the true cause. But during the past summer, while fishing on the tributaries of the Saguinay River, in Canada, I again saw the same disease presenting itself in the salmon of those streams. I noticed that no small salmon are found in this condition, and that all the blind ones have cuts across the eyes and head, producing scars as if some line or thread had been drawn tightly across the eyeball.

My view of the matter is that the fish in ascending or descending the streams come in contact with gill-nets that are set for the capture of this fine fish for food, which the inhabitants of that region use during their long cold winters. The meshes of the nets are of the proper size to allow a large salmon to pass his head through as far as the eye, while the smaller fish pass the head further through, and thus escape the cut of the fine linen thread across the delicate membranes of the eye.

This cut if deep produces sloughing, but if slight, inflammation and infiltration of the conjunctiva, thereby rendering it opaque.

It is only the large noble fellows that escape capture by these nets, with their heads scarred and their tails slit, showing the fearful struggle they had in clearing themselves of the nets spread for their capture, and living to become blind—never again to return to their feeding grounds, and soon to die of starvation.

NOVEMBER 24.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Thirty-two members present.

Paul Beck, George Gerry White, James G. Pease, George F. Barker, W. J. Hoffman, M.D., Joseph D. Potts, David E. Dallam, W. W. Jeffries, and Miss Adeline S. Tryon were elected members.